

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

represented by three alien magistrates : the Captain and the Podesta, both foreign (that is, from some other Italian state) nobles, and the Executor of Justice, who was normally a foreign burgher. There were two great Councils of the State : the Council of the People, over which the Captain presided, and the Council of the Commune presided over by the Podesta. In the former, only *popolani* could sit, *butgrandi* were also admitted to the latter. Measures proposed by the Signoria had first to be carried in the Colleges ; if they passed there, they were then submitted successively to the Council of the People and to the Council of the Commune, after which they became law. Temporary measures could, however, be concerted between the Signoria and a special meeting of *richiesti*^ citizens summoned for the purpose, without an appeal to these councils ; and in theory, and now and then in practice, a general Parliament, open to all the citizens of Florence, was assembled.

There was, however, in addition, another organization within the Republic, one which we shall find very closely associated with Catherine in her dealings with the Florentines. This was the *Parte Guelfa*, with its six captains and two councils, originally founded in the latter part of the thirteenth century, to maintain Guelf principles in the State. And in this the magnates were predominant, three of the captains being elected from their number. Their power of " admonishing " persons obnoxious to them, as suspected " Ghibellines," thereby excluding them from office under heavy penalties, made them greatly dreaded—all the more as, now that nothing of Ghibellinism remained but the name, this power was for the most part used to gratify personal feuds and to fan the flames of faction.

In Siena, from the middle of the thirteenth century, there had been a more or less similar constitution of the Commune and of the People—but with the striking difference that the organization of the latter was not based upon the Arts or Guilds, which (with the exception of the two Merchant Guilds, the *Arti di Mercanzia*, and the Guild of Wool) were of little political importance, but upon the *Societates armorum*, the armed militia or train-bands of